

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3829
ANSWERED ON:13.12.2000
MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH SERVICES
CHANDRAKANT BHAURAO KHAIRE;SRINIVASULU KALAVA

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that basic maternal and child health services are not available in large parts of the country;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the steps being taken to ensure the provision of amenities in the remotest part of the country?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA)

(a) to (c) Maternal and Child Health Services are an integral part of the Reproductive and Child Health Programme which is being implemented in all States and Union Territories of the Country since 1997. The programme aims at improving the health status of women and children and bringing down the infant, child and maternal mortality and morbidity.

Under the programme interventions for improving maternal and child health are being implemented in all districts of the country. The interventions for children include immunization against six vaccine preventable diseases, control of deaths due to diarrhoea and Acute Respiratory Infections, Prophylaxis for Vitamin A deficiency, Iron deficiency anemia and Essential Newborn Care. For the mothers the interventions include essential obstetric care; emergency obstetric care; provision of referral transport through panchayats and provision of drugs and equipment at first referral units.

In order to improve delivery of these services in districts which are remote and have low demographic indicators, contractual staff in the form of additional ANMs, Staff Nurses and laboratory technicians are being funded under this programme. Funds are also being provided for schemes like 24 hours delivery services at selected primary health centres; and Community Health Centres; hiring of doctors for providing essential obstetric care and MTP services at PHCs and hiring of anesthetists for assisting emergency operations on women with maternal complications.

In order to improve safe delivery practices a Dai training programme is being undertaken in 142 districts in 15 States where safe delivery rate is less than 30 percent.

A scheme for strengthening the outreach of Immunization and ante-natal services is being implemented in 50 districts of 8 weak States. For making services available at PHCs in remote areas, a scheme for holding Reproductive and Child Health camps is also being implemented in 102 weak districts in 17 States.